

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that the Information Disclosure Statement filed 1/21/05 has been considered.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-20 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 15 was objected to for informalities. In response, Applicants have amended claim 15 to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that the objection of claim 15 be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, Applicants amend claims 1-19 to recite a “decoding method, embodied in a computer readable medium and executable by a computer” as suggested by the examiner. In addition, claim 20 has been amended to recite a decoder comprising a first module and a processing module, each having executable computer code. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1-20 produce a useful, concrete and tangible result. For example, the decoding method claimed in claim 1 and the decoder claimed in claim 20 obtain the probabilities of decoding x-ary symbols or the probabilities of arriving at product states and reconstitutes the most probable flow of x-ary symbols from the obtained probabilities.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are directed toward statutory subject matter and respectfully request reconsideration and that claims 1-20 be allowed.

**Conclusion**

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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